

(Homoptera) of West Africa, Trustees, British museum, London 1-93. + vi.

ROY, D. K. (1981): Studies on the population and biometry of *Aphis gossypii* Glover (Aphidae; Homoptera; Insecta) on Brinjal (*Solanum melon-*

*gena* Linn.). Ph. D. Thesis of Utkal University:1-216 + V, 1981.

————— & BEHURA, B. K. (1980): Ants attending *Aphis gossypii* Glover, News Letter, the Aphidological Society of India, 1(2), Dec., 1980:4-5.

17. FIRST RECORD OF *MESOCOMYS* CAM. (HYM.: CHALCIDOIDEA, EUPELMIDAE) IN INDIA<sup>1</sup>

(With ten text-figures)

Genus *Mesocomys* Cam.

*Mesocomys* Cameron, 1905, Proc. S. Afr. Philos. Soc., XV, P. 210

Type species, *Mesocomys pulchriceps* Cameron.

The genus *Mesocomys* Cam. is a poorly known member of the family Eupelmidae, closely related to *Anastatus* Motsch. from which it can be very easily separated by the characteristic antennae (Fig. 4) (Antennae with transverse or subquadrate funicle segments, pedicel very long, as long as preceding four funicle segments combined, including annellus); scutellum in the female with two grooves at the base, forewings (Fig. 5) in the female entirely infuscated except the base hyaline and two hyaline spots, one close to the marginal vein and second opposite near the hind margin of wing. The wings of male are completely hyaline.

*Mesocomys orientalis* Ferr. (Figs. 1-10)

*Mesocomys orientalis* Ferriere 1935. *Stylops* 4: 145-153.

*Material examined*: INDIA: U.P., Pantnagar, 10.5.1981, 200 ♀♀, 80 ♂♂, reared from eggs of *Trabala vishnov* Lefebvre, Castor hairy caterpillar (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae) on castor plant (M. A. Khan). Material will be deposited in Z.S.I., Calcutta, India.

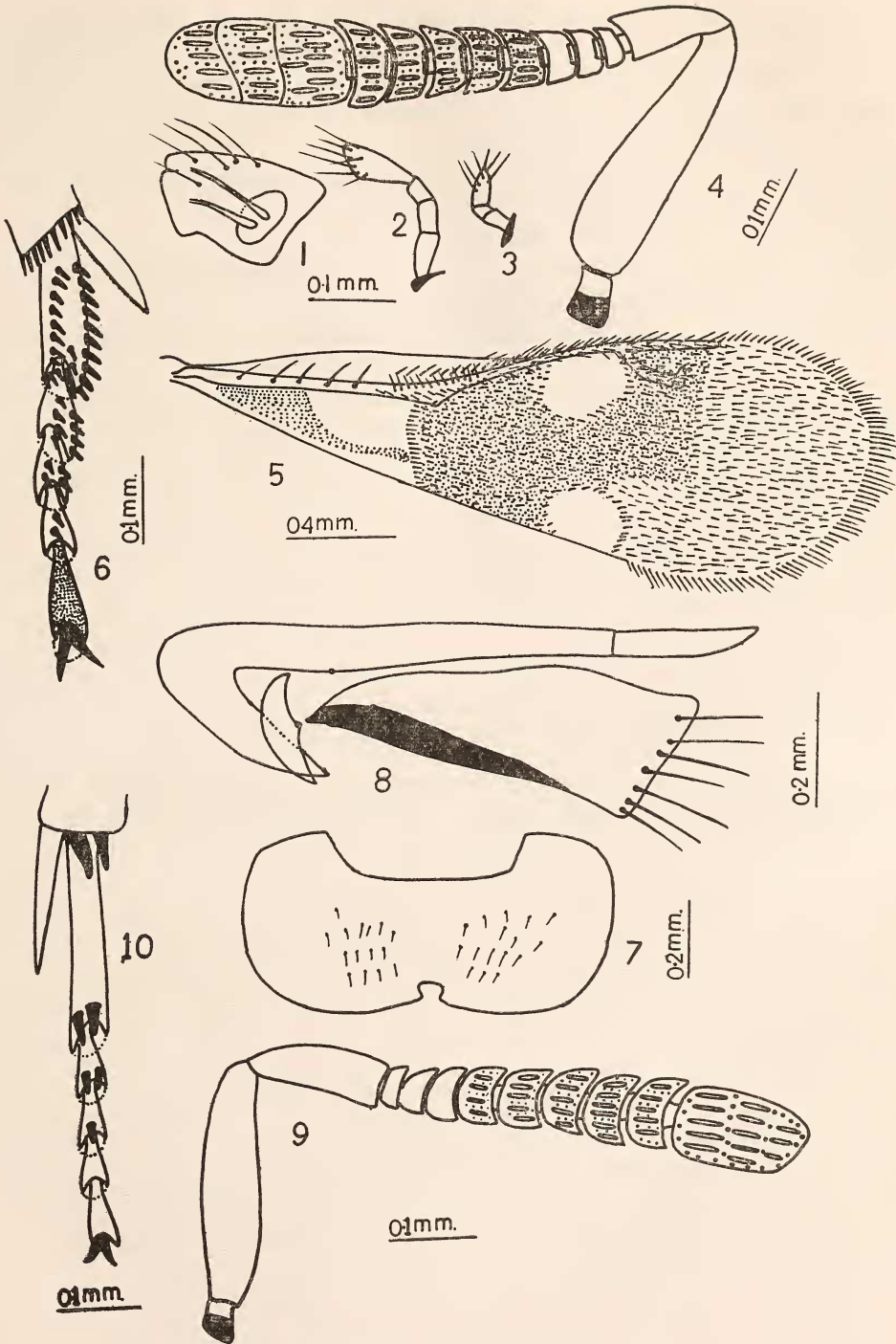
<sup>1</sup> Research paper No. 2625 through the Experiment Station, G. B.P.U.A. & T., Pantnagar, Nainital, U.P., India.

A detailed description of the species was given by Ferriere (1935). The following characters may be added to the species based on above material.

**Female** 2.3-2.6 mm. Body dark brown with cuperous reflections on frons, vertex and thorax; malar space shining bluish green, face yellowish; mandibles yellowish with apical margin brownish; abdomen dark brown with shining bluish green reflections on dorsum; antennal scape yellow with a brown spot at base below, rest of the antennae light brown with yellowish reflections.

Mandible bidentate (Fig. 1) with two blunt teeth, maxillary (Fig. 2) and labial palp (Fig. 3) 4 and 3 segmented respectively, apical segment of maxillary palp gradually expanding, distinctly longer than preceding two segments combined; pedicel (Fig. 4) two and a half times as long as wide, club with blunt apex, distinctly much shorter than preceding five funicle segments combined; propodaeal spiracle almost touching the anterior margin of propodaeum; forewings (Fig. 5) extended much beyond the tip of abdomen, three times longer than wide, marginal vein distinctly longer than postmarginal vein, stigmal vein distinctly shorter than postmarginal; hind wings almost three and a half times longer than wide, apex of marginal vein with three curved hooklets; mid tibial spur (Fig. 6) distinctly shorter than basitarsus, apex of tibiae and tarsal segments 1-4

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES



Figs. 1-8. *Mesocomys orientalis* Ferr., ♀

1. Mandible; 2. Maxillary palp; 3. Labial palp; 4. Antenna; 5. Forewing; 6. Part of middle leg; 7. Subgenital plate; 8. Ovipositor; 9. Antenna, ♂; 10. Part of middle leg, ♂.

with 10, 25, 8, 4 & 2 pegs respectively; subgenital plate (Fig. 7) extending a little beyond the middle of abdomen, posterior margin of subgenital plate rounded with an inverted U shaped notch in the middle, anterior margin deeply concave in the middle; first valvifer (Fig. 8) semicircular with articular knobs prominent, second valvifer long (Fig. 8), third valvulae (Fig. 8) lanceolate, outer plates of ovipositor (Fig. 8) narrow at base gradually expanding at apex with a ridge along outer margin.

**Male:** 1.9-2.2 mm. antennae yellow with some infuscation on flagellum, pedicel (Fig. 9)

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almost three times as long as wide, club unsegmented, shorter than preceding three funicle segments; apex of tibiae (Fig. 10) and tarsal segments 1-3 with 2, 2, 2 and 1 peg respectively.

*Distribution:* South and Central Africa, Asia, Burma, Rangoon; India, U.P., Pantnagar (New record).

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#### REFERENCE

FERRIERE, CH. (1935): Notes on some bred exotic Eupelmidae (Hym., Chalc.). *Stylops* 4: 145-153.

#### 18. *NESIDIOCORIS CAESAR* (BALLARD) (HETEROPTERA — MIRIDAE): A NEW PEST OF BOTTLE GOURD AND TOBACCO PLANTS

*Nesidiocoris caesar* (Ballard) is a sap sucking bug first reported by E. Ballard (1927) from Godavari District in South India on tobacco. It was described as a new species named *Cyrtopeltis (Gallobelicus) caesar*.

During the survey of the fields growing bottle gourd in Western U.P., from 1977-1981, it was found that the entire crop was infested by this bug and consequently leaves had become yellow, mottled and fruit setting was minimum and the crop was abandoned. No

information was then available on the species but later it was identified by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London.

The species infests Virginia variety of tobacco plants during winter, though the damaged mottled leaves remain commercially viable as they are utilized for processing as tobacco.

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